Amendments to the Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A system for auctioning consumer demand to suppliers comprising:

a request adapter for receiving a first data set in a first protocol, converting the first data set to a second data set in a second intermediate protocol and then, converting the second data set to a third data set in a third protocol;

a request preprocessor for receiving the third data set from the request adapter and filtering the third data set;

a virtual group processor for receiving the third data set, which has been filtered by the request preprocessor ~~and un-rejected~~, and creating at least one group[[,]] including the third data set and ~~other~~ similar data sets in the third protocol; and

a dynamic packaging orchestrator and continuous shopping engine (DPO/CSE) for managing the at least one group, shopping for bids on at least one product represented in the at least one group, and booking the at least one product based on the received bids.

2.   (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the first data set is a PNR and the third data set is a travel request.

3.   (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the first data set is a PNR, the second data set in the second intermediate protocol is a standard protocol, and the third data set in the third protocol is a travel request.

4.   (Currently Amended) The system of Claim [[1]]2, wherein the request preprocessor filters the third data set based on a set of elimination rules that eliminate or accept the travel request, based on a consumer's flexibility and the travel request availability.

5.   (Original) The system of Claim 4, wherein if the third data set does not meet the elimination rules it is rejected.

6.   Canceled

      7.   (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the DPO/CSE manages the at least one group by applying flexibility ~~rules~~ parameters based a consumer's profile and flexibility.

      8.   (Original) The system of Claim 7, wherein if the at least one group represents a plurality of products, the DPO/CSE manages the at least one group by disassembling the plurality of products and re-assembling the plurality of products into one or more combinations of products before shopping for bids.

      9.   (Original) The system of Claim 8, wherein the DPO/CSE shops for bids on the one or more combinations of products by submitting bid requests to suppliers and receiving one or more bids for the one or more combination of products.

      10.   (Original) The system of Claim 9, wherein the suppliers submit the one or more bids to the DPO/CSE manually or automatically through proxy agents, based on proxy trading rules.

      11.   (Original) The system of Claim 10, wherein the DPO/CSE books the one or more combination of products based on event and availability information.

      12.   (Currently Amended) A travel information system for auctioning consumer demand to suppliers comprising:

      a request adapter for receiving a PNR from a distribution system and converting the PNR to a travel request for a consumer associated with the PNR;

      a request preprocessor for receiving the travel request from the request adapter and filtering the travel request[[,]] based on a set of elimination rules;

      a virtual group processor for receiving the travel request[[s]], filtered by the request preprocessor and satisfying the set of elimination rules ~~un-rejected~~, and creating at least one group[[,]] including the travel request[[s]] and ~~other~~ similar travel requests; and

      a dynamic packaging orchestrator and continuous shopping engine (DPO/CSE) for managing the at least one group, shopping for bids on at least one product represented in the at

least one group, and using events and availability information to obtain the at least one product represented, and booking the at least one product.

13.   (Original) The system of Claim 12, wherein the request adapter uses an intermediate standard protocol to convert the PNR to the travel request.

14.   (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 12, wherein the DPO/CSE manages the at least one group by applying flexibility ~~rules~~ parameters based a consumer's profile and flexibility.

15.   Canceled

16.   (Original) The system of Claim 12, wherein if the at least one group represents a plurality of products, the DPO/CSE manages the at least one group by organizing the plurality of products into one or more combinations of products before shopping for bids.

17.   (Original) The system of Claim 16, wherein the DPO/CSE shops for bids on the one or more combinations of products by submitting bid requests to suppliers and receiving one or more bids for the one or more combination of products.

18.   (Original) The system of Claim 17, wherein the suppliers submit the one or more bids to the DPO/CSE manually or automatically through proxy agents, based on proxy trading rules.

19.   (Currently Amended) A method for auctioning consumer demand to suppliers in a travel information network comprising the steps of:
    transferring a PNR from a distribution system to a request adapter for conversion to a travel request for a consumer associated with the PNR;
    transferring the travel request from the request adapter to a request preprocessor;
    filtering the travel request[[s]] with the request preprocessor;
    transferring the filtered travel request[[s]] ~~that are un-rejected~~ to a virtual group processor,

forming at least one group[[,]] including the travel request[[s]] and ~~other~~ <u>similar</u> travel requests with the virtual group processor, and

transferring the at least one group from the virtual group processor to a dynamic packaging orchestrator and continuous shopping engine (DPO/CSE) that:

manages the at least one group,

shops for bids on at least one product represented in the at least one group,

receives bids on the at least one product represented in the at least one group, and

books the at least one product based on the received bids.

20.   (Original) The method of Claim 19, further comprising converting the PNR to an intermediate protocol and then to the travel request.

21.   (Original) The method of Claim 19, wherein the filtering step includes filtering the travel request based on a set of elimination rules.

22.   Canceled

23.   (Original) The method of Claim 22, wherein managing the at least one group further includes applying consumer and supplier profile rules to the travel request.

24.   (Original) The method of Claim 23, wherein managing the at least one group includes disassembling a plurality of products and re-assembling the plurality of products into one or more combinations of products before shopping for bids.

25.   (Original) The method of Claim 24, wherein receiving the one or more bids at the DPO/CSE further includes receiving bids from suppliers that have submitted the bids manually or automatically through proxy agents, based on proxy trading rules.

26.   (Original) The method of Claim 25, wherein the step of booking the travel request includes acquiring the one or more combination of products based on event and availability information received by the DPO/CSE.

27.   (Previously Presented) A method for booking a travel request comprising:

receiving the travel request;

continuously shopping the travel request at a distribution system;

reevaluating a price and an availability of the travel request offered at the distribution system to fulfill the travel request; and

booking the travel request at the distribution system if it is determined that an appropriate price is offered at the distribution system and the travel request is available.

28.   (Original) The method of Claim 27, wherein the step of continuously shopping the travel request at the distribution system includes monitoring fare and event availability information.

29.   (Original) The method of Claim 27, wherein the step of continuously shopping the travel request at the distribution system includes using time triggers to initiate the continuous shopping at the distribution system.

30.   (Original) A dynamic packaging orchestrator and continuous shopping engine (DPO/CSE) comprising:

a dynamic packaging management module for dividing one or more grouped travel requests into a plurality of individual requests represented in the one or more grouped requests and creating additional requests based on flexibility rules derived from a consumer's profile;

a dynamic connection constructor module for receiving the one or more grouped requests and generating a list of alternate requests, based on a consumer's flexibility, and submitting the alternate requests to the dynamic packaging management module; and

a bid management module for:

receiving the plurality of requests, the additional requests, and the alternate requests from the dynamic packaging management module,

offering the plurality of individual requests, the additional request, and the alternate requests for bidding,

receiving bids on the plurality of individual requests, the additional requests, and the alternate requests and determining whether one or more of the bids are acceptable, and

booking one or more of the bids that were acceptable with a distribution system.

31.   (Previously Presented) A method for providing item requests comprising:

receiving requests for items from at least one of a plurality of sources;

processing the requests for items received in a standard format or converting the request for items received in other formats to a standard format;

eliminating the requests for items that fail to meet a predetermined criteria;

reorganizing the requests for items into groups having the same or similar items;

offering the groups for bids to prospective suppliers;

receiving a bid from at least one of the prospective suppliers that fulfill an item within one of the grouped requests for items; and

repeatedly shopping at least one of the requests for items at a distribution system in pre-determined time intervals until the at least one request for items is satisfied.